

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

International Application No. : PCT/FR00/00608  
 International Filing Date : 14 MARCH 2000  
 Priority Date(s) Claimed : 15 MARCH 1999  
 Applicant(s) (DO/EO/US) : MATHIS, Gerard, et al.

3/a  
 D.G.J.  
 11/26/01

Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING FLUORESCENCE QUENCHING IN BIOASSAYS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to calculating the national fee, and prior to examination in the National Phase of the above-identified International application, please amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Sub 5*  
*a1* 5. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the oligonucleotide consists of ribonucleotide or deoxyribonucleotide units, one of which may comprise a functional group introduced onto or generated on said unit, or the functional group introduced using a spacer arm bonded to the terminal phosphate group in the 3' or 5' position.

*Sub 6*  
 6. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the oligonucleotide comprises a chain of 5 to 50 nucleotides or a chain of 5 to 50 nucleotides and nucleotide or nucleoside analogs.

*a1* 8. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the oligonucleotide consists of a chain of ribonucleotide or deoxyribonucleotide units bonded to one another via phosphodiester-type bonds and of analogous units of nucleosides bonded to one another via amide bonds, said oligonucleotide comprising at least 5 phosphodiester-type internucleotide bonds at the end intended to be bonded to the cryptate.